What is claimed:

1.   A registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising:

means for receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system;

means for registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length, comprising:

means for generating an object payload comprising object-specific information,

means for inserting a digital code that identifies said registration system, and

means for assigning a registrar-specific digital code to uniquely identify said received object.

2.   The registration system of claim 1 wherein said means for registering further comprises:

means for combining said object payload, said digital code that identifies said registration system, said registrar-specific digital code, each having a predetermined length, in a predetermined order.

3.   The registration system of claim 1, wherein said object comprises one of a media asset and a subscriber application, further comprising:

means for storing said received object in a storage medium for access by subscribers; and

means for indexing and describing said stored received object using said unique signature identification.

4.   The registration system of claim 3 wherein said object comprises a media asset, said means for generating an object payload comprises at least one of:

means for generating content expiry data that defines a date when said object is no longer available for access by said subscribers;

means for generating a content rating that defines characteristics of a content of said object;

means for generating quality of service data; and

means for generating version data that identifies a version of said received
5   object.

5.   The registration system of claim 3 wherein said object comprises a subscriber application, said means for generating an object payload comprises at least one of:

10   means for generating subscriber ratings data;

means for generating subscriber permissions data;

means for generating subscriber device data;

means for generating subscriber service provider identification data.

15   6.   The registration system of claim 3 further comprising:

means, responsive to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for an object, for identifying an object stored on said storage medium that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query;

20   means, responsive to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for said subscriber, for identifying object access permissions for said subscriber that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query; and

means for retrieving said stored object from said storage medium where said
25   subscriber's object access permissions authorize access.

7.   A method of operating a registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage
30   systems served by said communication network, comprising the steps of:

receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system;

registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length, comprising:

generating an object payload comprising object-specific information,

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inserting a digital code that identifies said registration system, and

assigning a registrar-specific digital code to uniquely identify said received object.

5   8.   The method of operating a registration system of claim 7 wherein said step of registering further comprises:

combining said object payload, said digital code that identifies said registration system, said registrar-specific digital code, each having a predetermined length, in a predetermined order.

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9.   The method of operating a registration system of claim 7, wherein said object comprises one of a media asset and a subscriber application, further comprising the steps of:

storing said received object in a storage medium for access by subscribers; 15 and

indexing said stored received object using said unique signature identification.

10.   The method of operating a registration system of claim 9 wherein said 20 object comprises a media asset, said step of generating an object payload comprises at least one of:

generating content expiry data that defines a date when said object is no longer available for access by said subscribers;

generating a content rating that defines characteristics of a content of said 25 object;

generating quality of service data; and

generating version data that identifies a version of said received object.

11.   The method of operating a registration system of claim 9 wherein said 30 object comprises a subscriber application, said step of generating an object payload comprises at least one of:

generating subscriber ratings data;

generating subscriber permissions data;

generating subscriber device data;

generating subscriber service provider identification data.

12.   The method of operating a registration system of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

identifying, in response to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for an object, an object stored on said storage medium that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query;

identifying, in response to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for said subscriber, object access permissions for said subscriber that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query; and

retrieving said stored object from said storage medium where said subscriber's object access permissions authorize access.

13.   A registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising:

means for receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system;

means for registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length, comprising:

means for generating a segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of immutable data, and

means for generating a segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of dynamic data comprising object-specific information that can vary during the existence of said object.

14.   The registration system of claim 13 wherein said means for registering further comprises:

means for combining said segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of immutable data, said segment of said unique signature

identification that comprises a set of dynamic data, each having a predetermined length, in a predetermined order.

15.   The registration system of claim 13, wherein said object comprises one of a media asset and a subscriber application, further comprising:

means for storing said received object in a storage medium for access by subscribers; and

means for indexing said stored received object using said unique signature identification.

16.   The registration system of claim 13 wherein said object comprises a media asset, said means for generating an object payload comprises at least one of:

means for generating content expiry data that defines a date when said object is no longer available for access by said subscribers;

means for generating a content rating that defines characteristics of a content of said object;

means for generating quality of service data; and

means for generating version data that identifies a version of said received object.

17.   The registration system of claim 16 wherein said object comprises a subscriber application, said means for generating an object payload comprises at least one of:

means for generating subscriber ratings data;

means for generating subscriber permissions data;

means for generating subscriber device data;

means for generating subscriber service provider identification data.

18.   The registration system of claim 16 wherein said means for registering comprises:

means, responsive to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for an object, for identifying an object

stored on said storage medium that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query;

    means, responsive to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for said subscriber, for identifying object access permissions for said subscriber that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query; and

    means for retrieving said stored object from said storage medium where said subscriber's object access permissions authorize access.

19.   A method of operating a registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising:

    receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system;

    registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length, comprising:

    generating a segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of immutable data, and

    generating a segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of dynamic data comprising object-specific information that can vary during the existence of said object.

20.   The method of operating a registration system of claim 19 wherein said step of registering further comprises:

    combining said segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of immutable data, said segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of dynamic data, each having a predetermined length, in a predetermined order.

21.   The method of operating a registration system of claim 19, wherein said object comprises one of a media asset and a subscriber application, further comprising the steps of:

    storing said received object in a storage medium for access by subscribers; and

indexing said stored received object using said unique signature identification.

22. The method of operating a registration system of claim 19 wherein said object comprises a media asset, said step of generating an object payload comprises at least one of:

generating content expiry data that defines a date when said object is no longer available for access by said subscribers;

generating a content rating that defines characteristics of a content of said object;

generating quality of service data; and

generating version data that identifies a version of said received object.

23. The method of operating a registration system of claim 22 wherein said object comprises a subscriber application, said step of generating an object payload comprises at least one of:

generating subscriber ratings data;

generating subscriber permissions data;

generating subscriber device data;

generating subscriber service provider identification data.

24. The method of operating a registration system of claim 19 wherein said step of registering comprises:

identifying, in response to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for an object, an object stored on said storage medium that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query;

identifying, in response to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for said subscriber, object access permissions for said subscriber that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query; and

retrieving said stored object from said storage medium where said subscriber's object access permissions authorize access.